THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) In his address to the U.N. General Assembly in September, 2003, the U.S. President gave some examples of cities that had had terrorist incidents in the recent past and did not specifically describe any country as a victim of terrorism.

(b) and (c) The U.S. Administration has on a number of occasions condemned terrorist incidents in India and acknowledged India as a victims of terrorism. It recognises the nature and source of terrorism in India and has called upon Pakistan to take steps to put a permanent end to cross border terrorism in India. On October 29, 2003, a senior U.S. official specifically described India as a victim of trrorism during a testimony before the U.S. Congress and cited the tragic attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001, as well as the terrorist bombing in Mumbai in August 2003.

Release of prisoners by India and Pakistan

1034. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of prisoners released by India and Pakistan during the last one year;

(b) the number of Indian and Pakistani prisoners in respective jails as per the information available with Government;

(c) whether any councillor services are being provided to the prisoners and if not, the reason therefor;

(d) the number of Pakistani prisoners facing trial in various courts of the country and whether any special courts have been set-up for speedy trial; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) 114 Pakistani nationals, including fishermen and civilians, under Indian custody have been released till date during the year 2003. Pakistan has released 623 Indian Fishermen and 38 civilian prisoners during the year 2003.

(b) and (c) As per available information, 28 Indian fishermen, 882 civilian prisoners and 54 missing defence personnel are believed to be in Pakistan's custody.

From time to time Pakistan provides consular access to some of the prisoners. During 2003, consular access was provided to 24 Indian civilians and 335 fishermen. Government, through diplomatic channels, is continuously taking up the issue of release of Indian civilians who were provided consular access and whose national status has been verified.

During the year 2003, India granted consular access to 84 Pakistani civilian prisoners and 23 apprehended fishermen. Consular access to 77 more Pakistani fishermen is being granted on December 11, 2003.

(d) and (e) As per available information, 109 Pakistani nationals are facing trial in various courts in India. They can be released after completion of due procedure.

Indian Missions and Consulates abroad

1035. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts in foreign countries as on the 1st April, 2003;

(b) the number of Missions which consists of the Head of Mission supported by one attache with diplomatic status and a few non-diplomatic staff with their place of location;

(c) the names of the countries where India has resident Mission but which do not Maintain resident mission in India and *vice-versa;*

(d) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission has recommended closure of some of resident missions and their substitution, if necessary, by concurrent accreditation; and

(e) if so, the names of the countries and location of such Missions and Government's decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The number of Indian